

Appl. No. 10/084,608
Amdt. Dated June 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 19, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0253
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application, with claims 1-13 having been withdrawn. By this amendment, claim 14 is being amended to improve its form, and new claims 17-19 are being added. No new matter is involved.

In paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure is objected to because its length exceeds 150 words. In response, applicant is replacing the abstract with a new abstract which is shorter than 150 words. Such new abstract should now be acceptable.

In paragraph 4 on the top of page 3 of the Office Action, claim 14 is objected to because of the recitation "and/or". In response, applicant is amending claim 14 by changing "and/or" to "or". At the same time, applicant is presenting new claim 17 which is like claim 14 except that the recitation "and/or" is changed to "and". New claims 18 and 19 are like claims 15 and 16 except that they depend from new claim 17. By removing the dejectionable expression "and/or", claim 14 should now be clear and definite, as should be new claim 17.

In paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,608,556 of Koma in view of U.S. Patent 5,880,797 of Yamada et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the case of the present invention, an orientation controller formed on a common electrode has a region along an extension direction of one or more slits or projections for dividing a pixel electrode into a plurality of electrode regions.

US Patent 5,608,556 of Koma does not disclose or suggest slits or projections for dividing each of a plurality of pixel electrodes into a plurality of pixel regions. Therefore, Koma fails to disclose an orientation controller having "a region along an

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extension direction of one or more slits or projections", as in the case of the present invention.

With respect to U.S. Patent 5,880,797 of Yamada, the Examiner in the Office Action states that "Yamada discloses each of a plurality of the pixel electrodes (fig. 3, ref. 201) divided by one or more slits or projections (fig. 3, ref. 20) into two or more electrode regions". However, reference numeral 20 is described in Yamada as a "concave portion" formed in a pixel electrode which is clearly different from a "slit" which is cut in an electrode. A "concave portion" obviously differs from a "projection". Moreover, Yamada fails to disclose, or even suggest, formation of an orientation controller separate from a slit or projection for dividing a pixel electrode into a plurality of pixel regions as described in the present invention, and thus, formation of the orientation controller on the side of the common electrode as in the case of the present invention. Therefore, it is clear that Yamada fails to disclose or even suggest that an orientation controller has "a region along an extension direction of one or more slits or projections".

Therefore, both Koma and Yamada completely differ from the present invention. Even if an attempt is made to combine the two citations, the structure in accordance with the present invention that an orientation controller has a region along an extension direction of a slit or projection cannot be realized. Moreover, there is no suggestion for making such a structure.

Claim 14 is submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the references. Claim 14 defines a vertically aligned liquid crystal display in which "each of said plurality of orientation controllers associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of pixel electrodes and has portions extending along the direction in which said one or more slits or projections extend, and one of said plurality of orientation controllers is disposed between said two slits or projections or between the

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corresponding one of said one or more slits or projections and a gap between adjoining pixel electrodes". Similar comments apply to new claim 17 which defines a vertically aligned liquid crystal display in which "each of said plurality of orientation controllers associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of pixel electrodes has portions extending along the direction in which said one or more slits or projections extend, and one of said plurality of orientation controls is disposed between said two slits or projections and between the corresponding one of said one or more slits or projections and a gap between adjoining pixel electrodes".

Claims 15 and 16 depend from and contain all of the limitations of claim 14, so as to patentably distinguish over the art. Similarly, new claims 18 and 19 depend from and contain all of the limitations of new claim 17, so that such claims clearly distinguish patentably over the art.

In conclusion, claims 14-16 and new claims 17-19 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the art for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

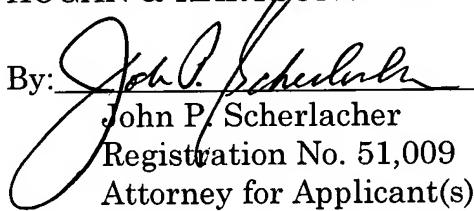
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Respectfully submitted,
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Date: June 16, 2004

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